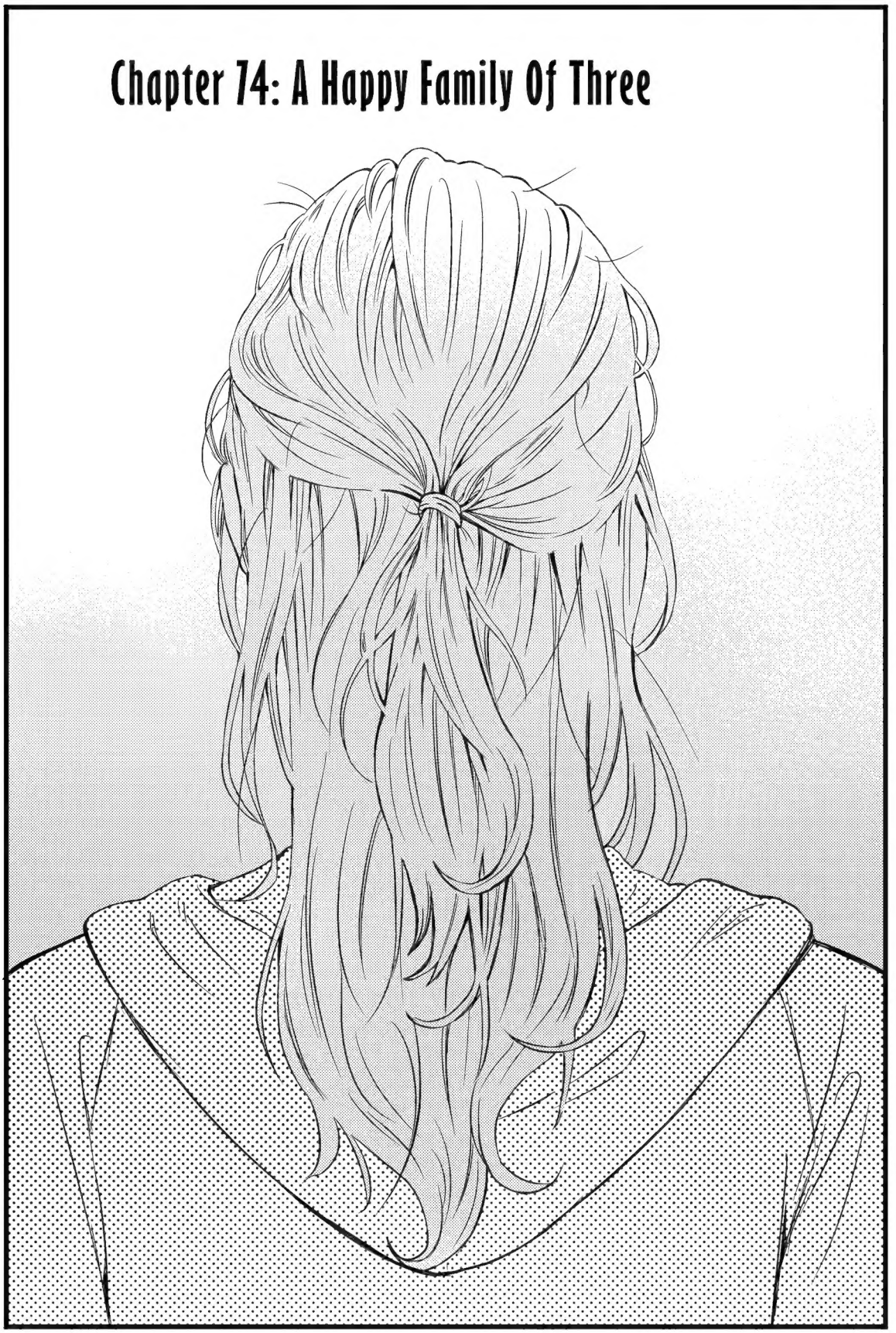
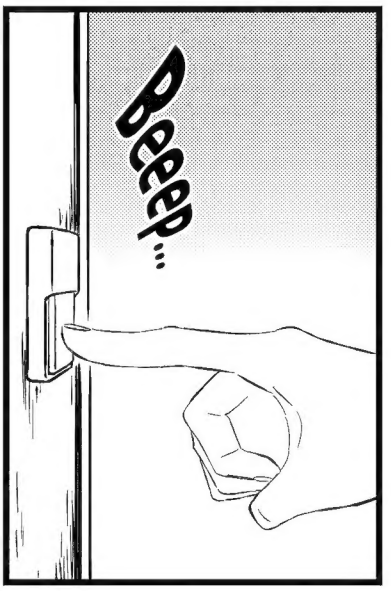
Chapter 74: A Happy Family Of Three

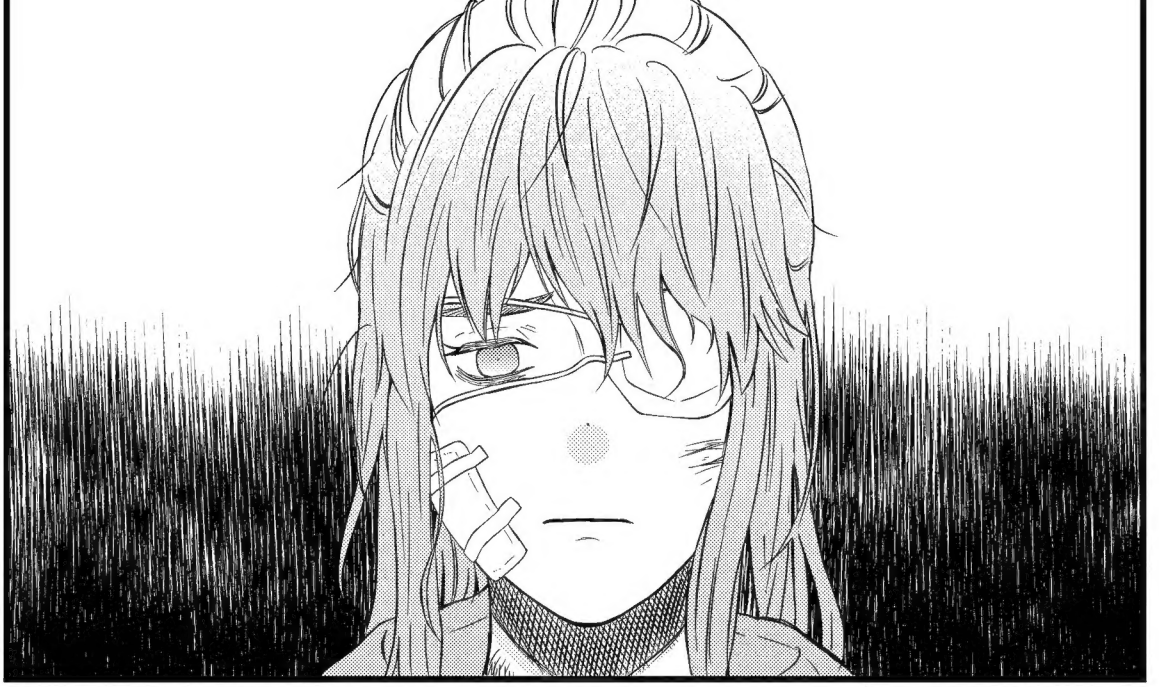


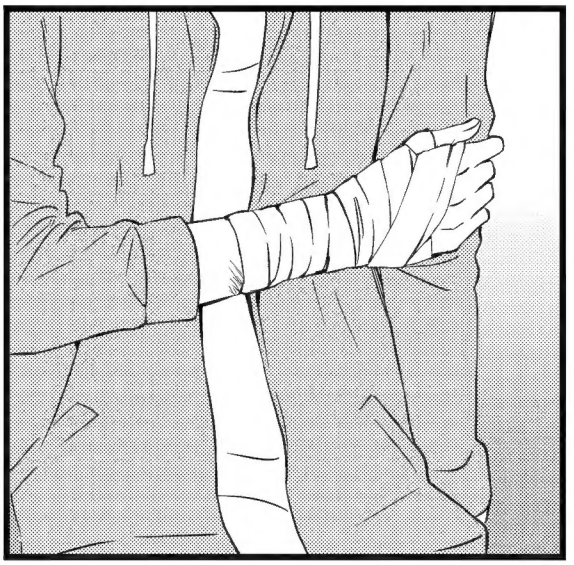
THIS IS... WHERE THE WOMAN WHO ABANDONED JUN-KUN AND HIS SISTER LIVES...?

YES...?

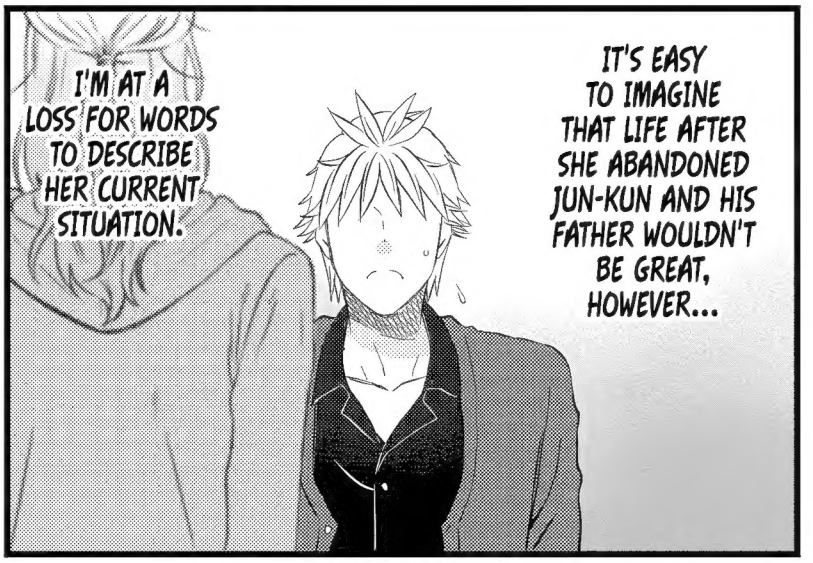

Beeep...

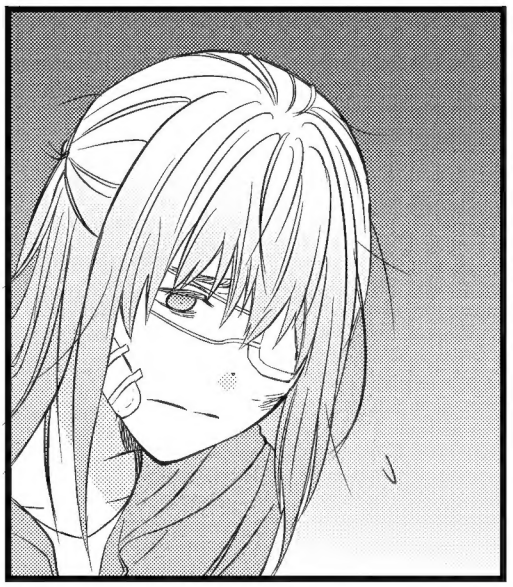
YOU'RE JUN-KUN'S MOTHER... AREN'T YOU?
Tock
HERE YOU GO...
I THOUGHT I'D DO NOTHING BUT COMPLAIN THE MOMENT I SAW HER FACE, AND YET...
...THANK YOU...

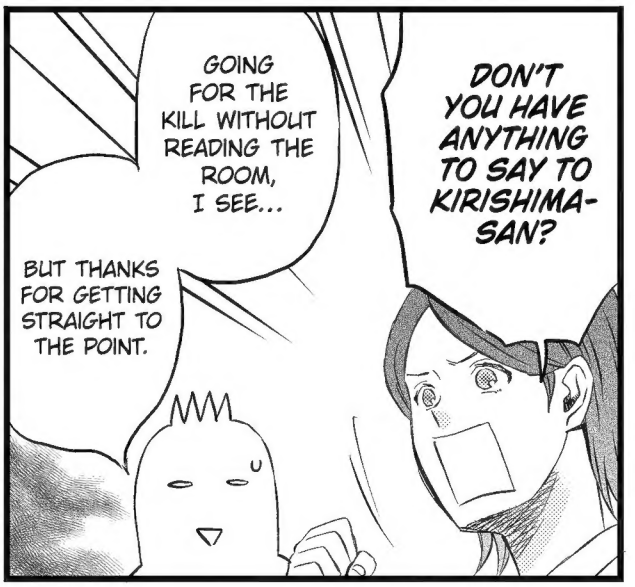




COME ON...


I'M AT A LOSS FOR WORDS TO DESCRIBE HER CURRENT SITUATION.
IT'S EASY TO IMAGINE THAT LIFE AFTER SHE ABANDONED JUN-KUN AND HIS FATHER WOULDN'T BE GREAT, HOWEVER...

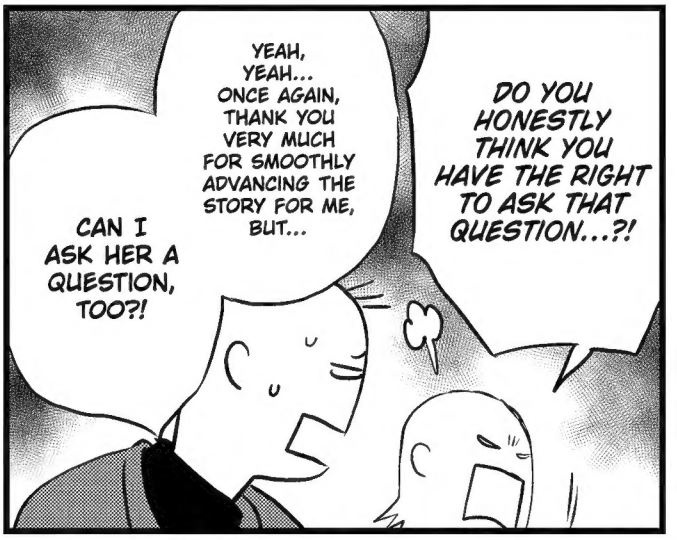



DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO KIRISHIMA-SAN?
GOING FOR THE KILL WITHOUT READING THE ROOM, I SEE...
BUT THANKS FOR GETTING STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.

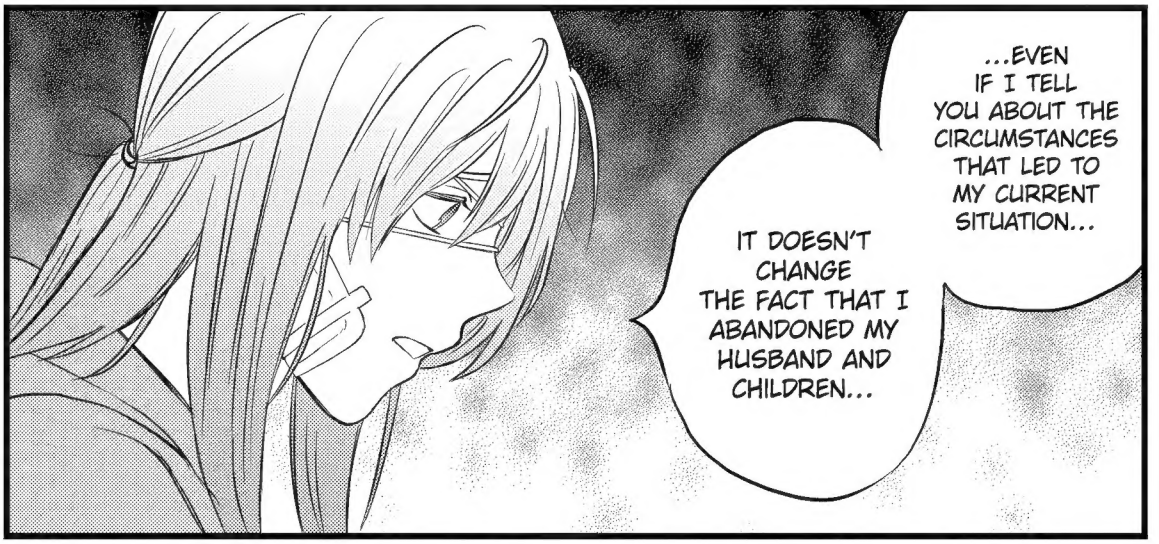
DO...

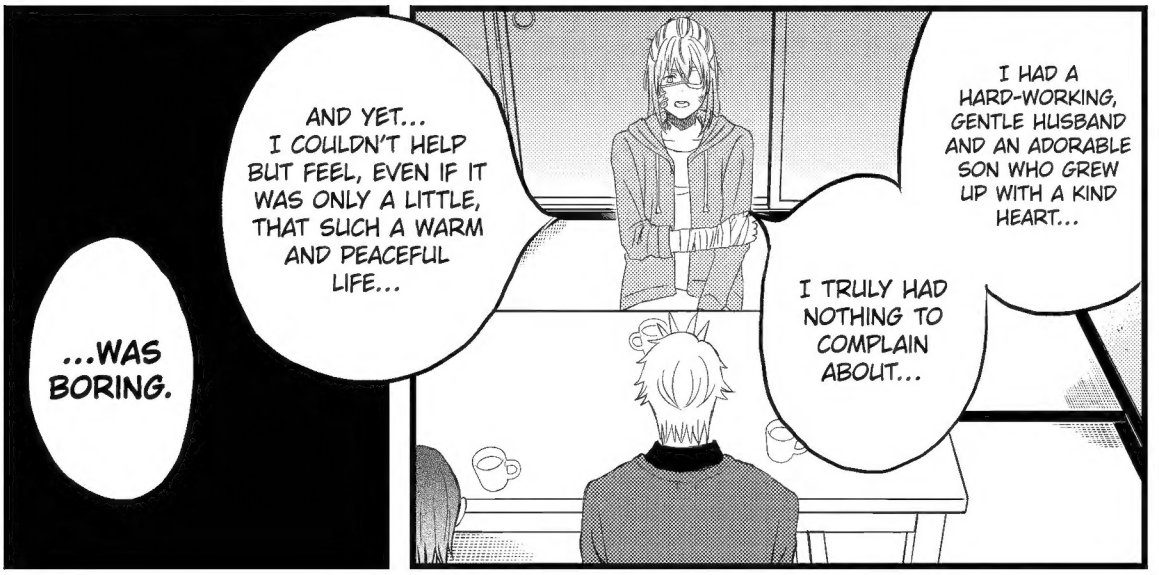
MAY I ASK... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BABY I LEFT BEHIND?
I'M SORRY...
I HAD NO ONE ELSE TO RELY ON.

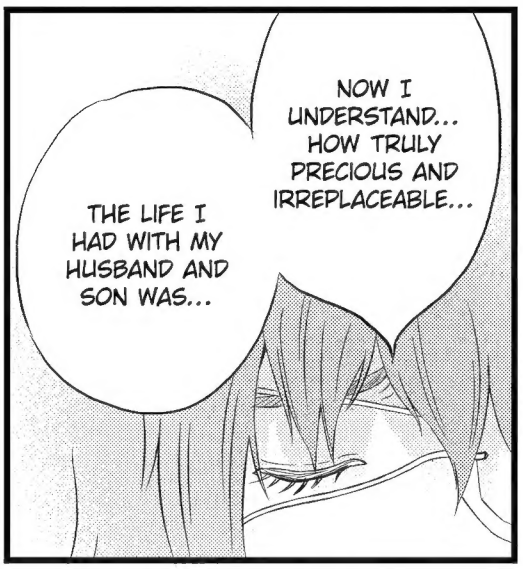
THAT BABY IS BEING LOOKED AFTER AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE MY WIFE WORKS.
BUT I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU WHY YOU LEFT YOUR DAUGHTER IN FRONT OF OUR DOOR.

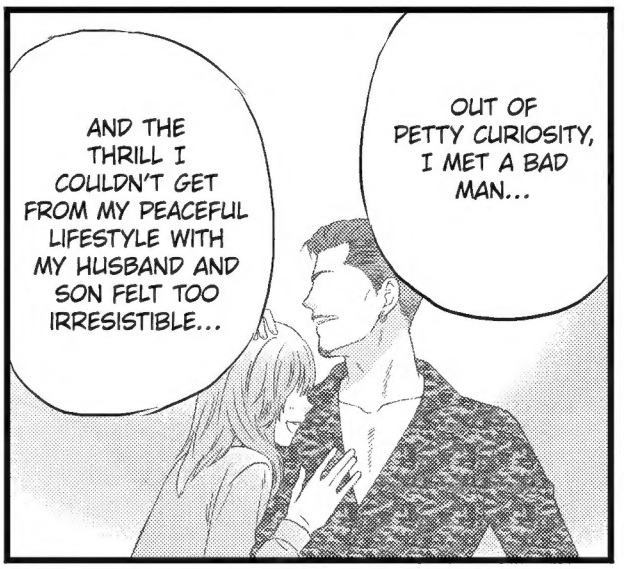

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK THAT QUESTION...?!
YEAH, YEAH... ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR SMOOTHLY ADVANCING THE STORY FOR ME, BUT...
CAN I ASK HER A QUESTION, TOO?!

JUN-KUN IS ALSO SHAKEN UP BY THIS MATTER...
I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE HAD YOUR REASONS, BUT...
THAT'S TOO MUCH TO ASK OF US.

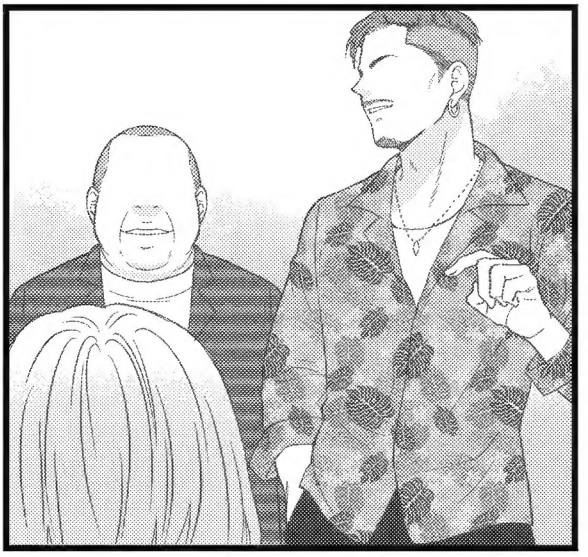

...EVEN IF I TELL YOU ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO MY CURRENT SITUATION...
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I ABANDONED MY HUSBAND AND CHILDREN...

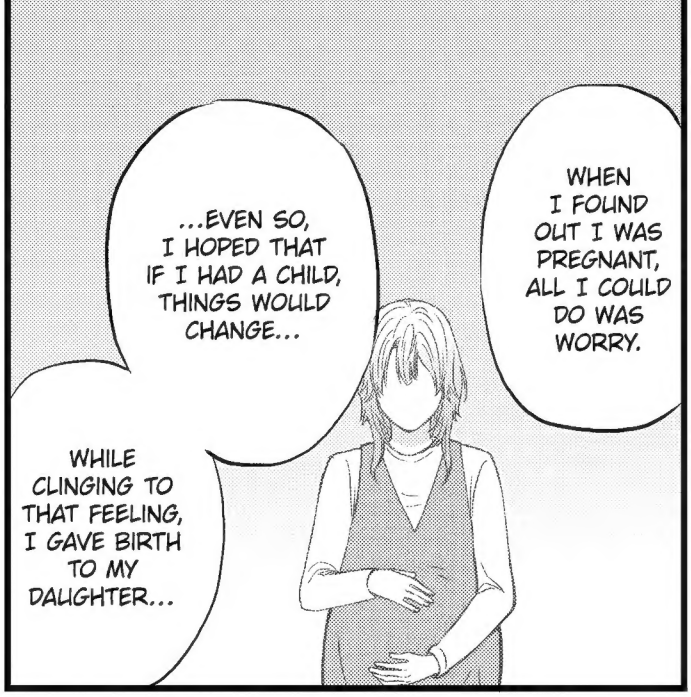

I HAD A HARD-WORKING, GENTLE HUSBAND AND AN ADORABLE SON WHO GREW UP WITH A KIND HEART...
I TRULY HAD NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT...
AND YET... I COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL, EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY A LITTLE, THAT SUCH A WARM AND PEACEFUL LIFE...
...WAS BORING.


NOW I UNDERSTAND... HOW TRULY PRECIOUS AND IRREPLACEABLE...
THE LIFE I HAD WITH MY HUSBAND AND SON WAS...


OUT OF PETTY CURIOSITY, I MET A BAD MAN...
AND THE THRILL I COULDN'T GET FROM MY PEACEFUL LIFESTYLE WITH MY HUSBAND AND SON FELT TOO IRRESISTIBLE...

IN FACT, I QUICKLY WOKE UP TO THAT REALITY.
...BUT I WAS BEING CONTROLLED TO THE POINT I COULD NO LONGER TURN BACK.

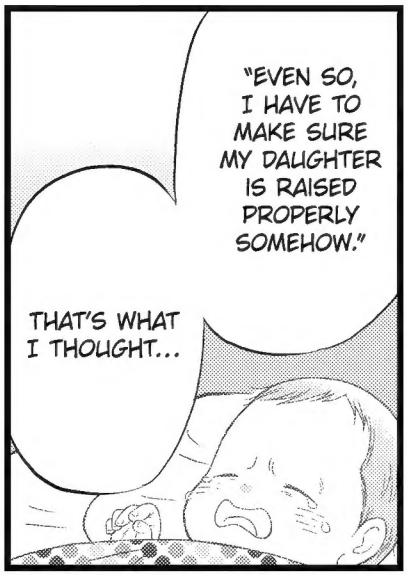



WHEN I FOUND OUT I WAS PREGNANT, ALL I COULD DO WAS WORRY.
...EVEN SO, I HOPED THAT IF I HAD A CHILD, THINGS WOULD CHANGE...
WHILE CLINGING TO THAT FEELING, I GAVE BIRTH TO MY DAUGHTER...

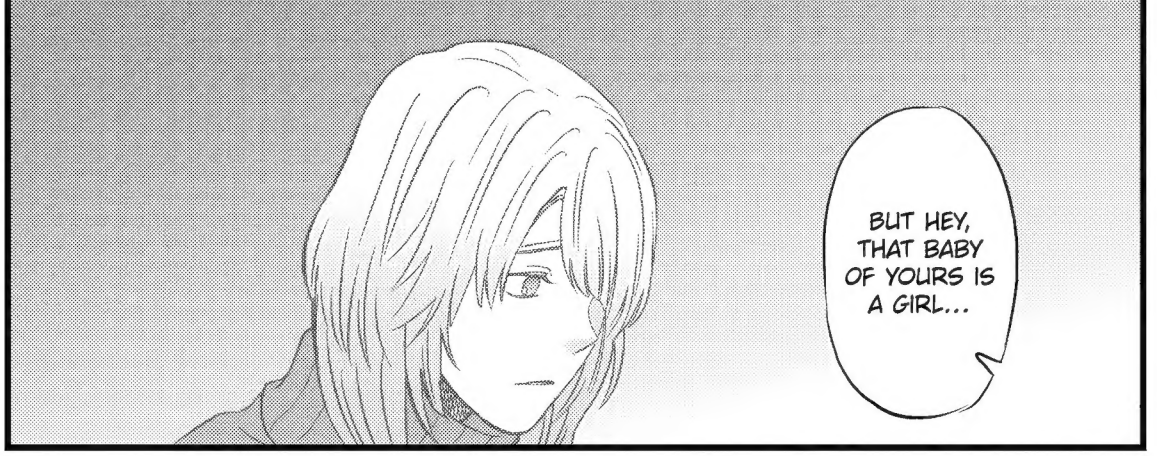
I NEVER IMAGINED MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING MY HUSBAND AND SON WOULD BE SO MISERABLE...

FUCKING HELL... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHOSE KID THIS IS. WHY DO I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER HER...?

SO ANNOYING... HEY! THE BABY'S CRYING!
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, NOTHING REALLY CHANGED...

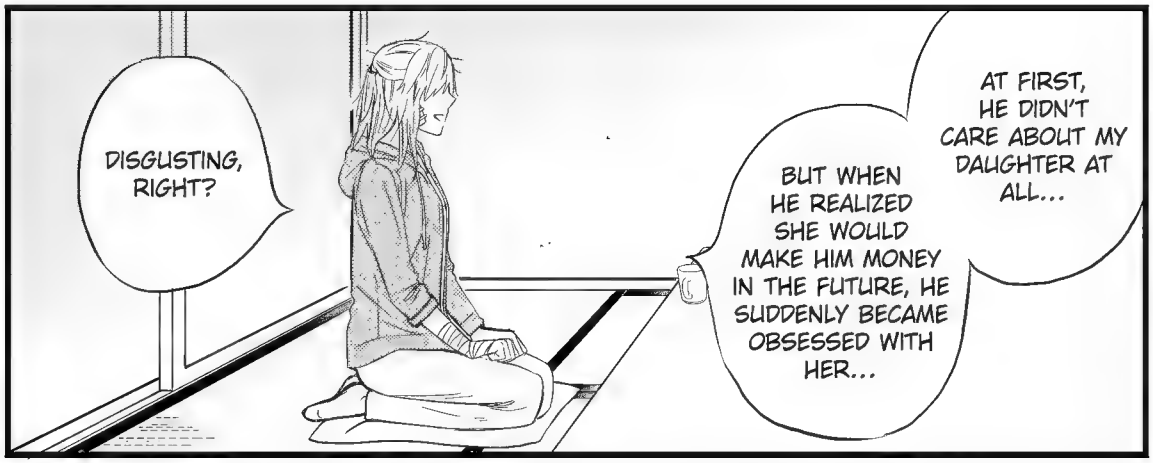

"EVEN SO, I HAVE TO MAKE SURE MY DAUGHTER IS RAISED PROPERLY SOMEHOW."
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...

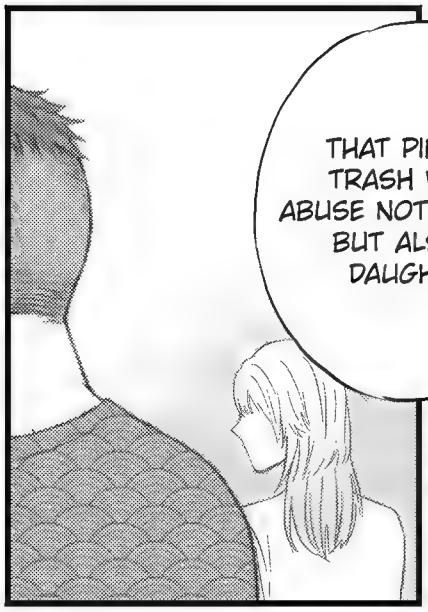
I TRIED TO LOOK FOR MY HUSBAND AND SON AGAIN, SO I COULD ASK THEM FOR HELP. BUT I FAILED...
I THOUGHT THIS STAGNANT, MISERABLE LIFE WOULD CONTINUE FOREVER.
I SUPPOSE THIS IS MY PUNISHMENT FOR ABANDONING MY FAMILY...

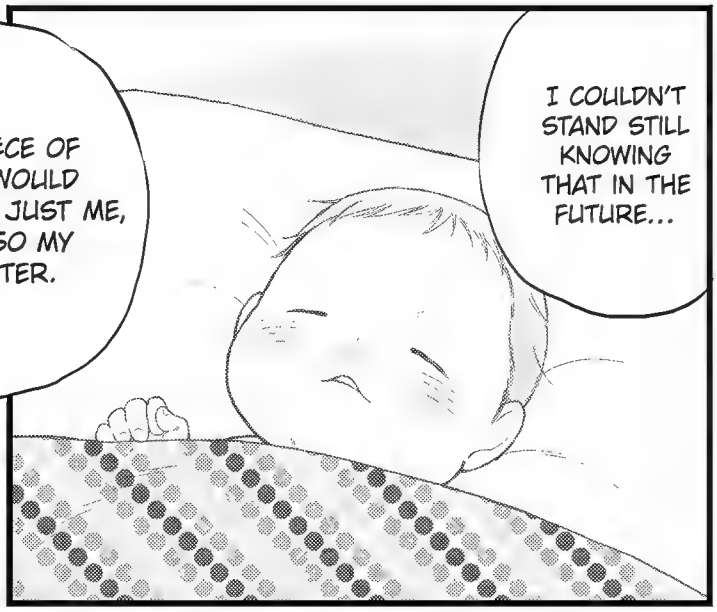

BUT HEY, THAT BABY OF YOURS IS A GIRL...

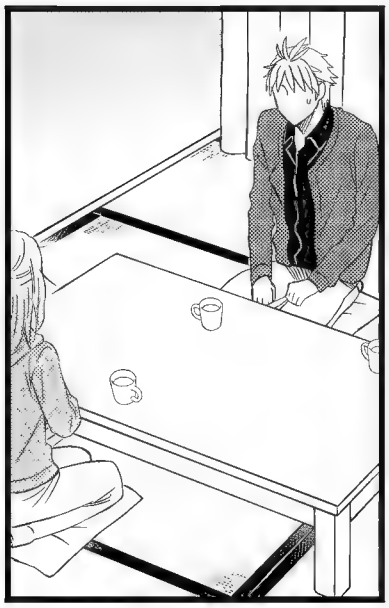
IN JUST A FEW MORE YEARS, THERE'LL BE A DEMAND FOR HER, Y'KNOW?

AFTER ALL, THERE ARE PERVERTS OUT THERE WHO THINK THE YOUNGER, THE BETTER!


DISGUSTING, RIGHT?
AT FIRST, HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT MY DAUGHTER AT ALL...
BUT WHEN HE REALIZED SHE WOULD MAKE HIM MONEY IN THE FUTURE, HE SUDDENLY BECAME OBSESSED WITH HER...


THAT PIECE OF TRASH WOULD ABUSE NOT JUST ME, BUT ALSO MY DAUGHTER.


I COULDN'T STAND STILL KNOWING THAT IN THE FUTURE...

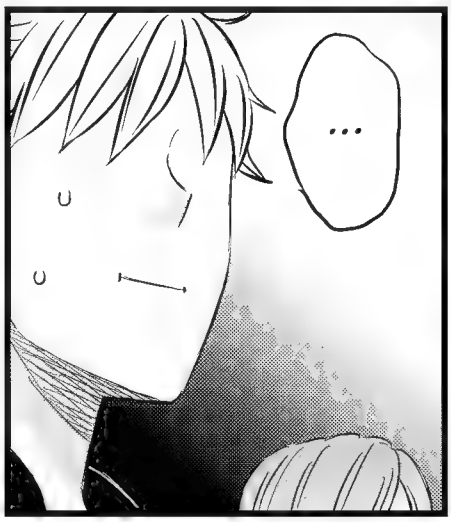


Heh heh!
I'M... THINKING OF KILLING THAT MAN SOON.

YOU SEE... HE ALSO KNOWS ABOUT MY SON JUN.
IF I RAN AWAY WITH MY DAUGHTER, HE'D LOOK FOR MY SON, AND IF HE FOUND HIM, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'D DO...
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, SO I CONCLUDED...

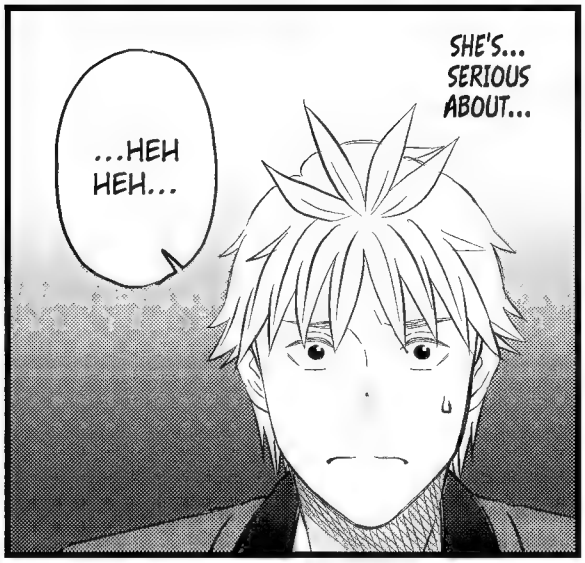
"AHH... KILLING HIM IS MY ONLY CHOICE..."
YOU SEE?

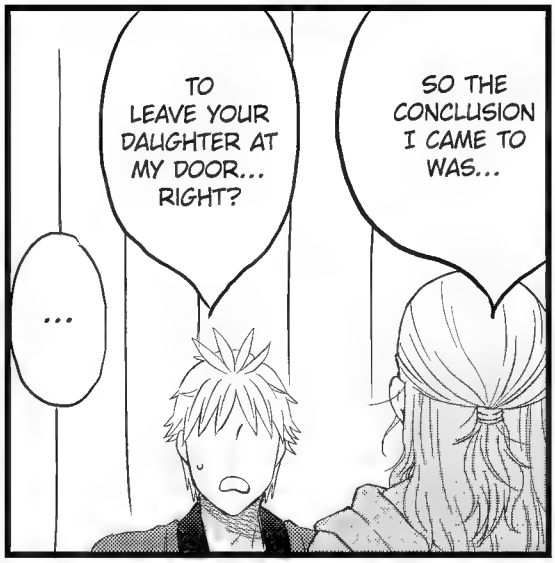
IS THAT A JOKE...? I WANT TO BELIEVE IT IS, BUT DOESN'T SHE SOUND KIND OF SERIOUS...?
NOPE, SHE MUST BE JOKING. THERE'S NO WAY SHE'S THINKING OF...


...

BUT THEN AGAIN, I DON'T WANT MY SON AND DAUGHTER TO HAVE A MURDERER AS THEIR MOTHER...

HEY, YOU. DON'T THOUGHTLESSLY ENCOURAGE HER!
YES... THAT'S A FINE IDEA!


...HEH HEH...
SHE'S... SERIOUS ABOUT...


...
TO LEAVE YOUR DAUGHTER AT MY DOOR... RIGHT?
SO THE CONCLUSION I CAME TO WAS...

R-RIGHT...
YOU PEOPLE WHO JUST HEARD ABOUT IT WILL FEEL RESPONSIBLE.
IF I DECIDE TO KILL THAT MAN RIGHT NOW...

WHAT ...?
I WAS JOKING ABOUT KILLING HIM, OKAY?

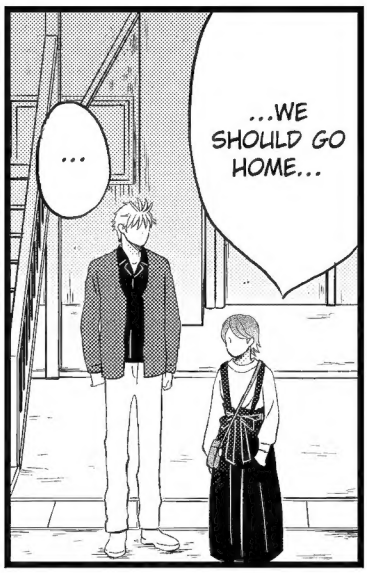
...
AND I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT ABANDONING MY CHILDREN...
I'M JUST A DUMB WOMAN WITH A LOOSE HEAD AND CROTCH...
IT WAS ONLY A JOKE.
I'LL NEVER APPEAR IN FRONT OF MY SON OR DAUGHTER AGAIN.
IN FACT, I'LL BE LEAVING THIS TOWN SOON.
EVEN SO, SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE WITHOUT ME AND THAT MAN AROUND.
...WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOUR DAUGHTER.
UM!
JUN-KUN ASIDE, I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW...
RIGHT ...

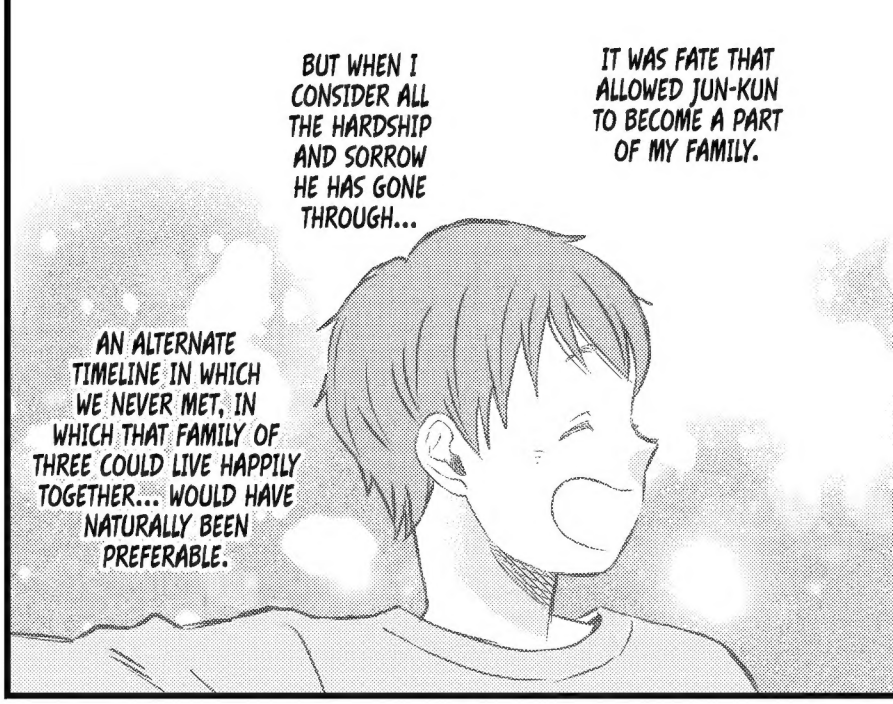
I DON'T THINK I HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY THIS, BUT...

TRULY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

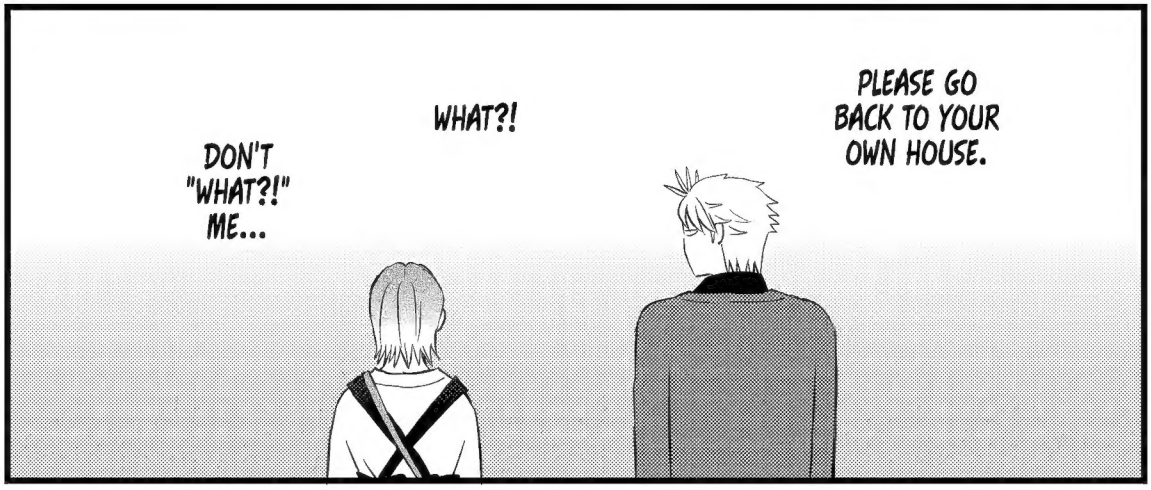
FOR ADOPTING MY SON.

"DO YOUR BEST AT HOME, OKAY? AND TREASURE YOUR WIFE..."
THAT BOY WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO CARED FOR OTHERS.
EVEN THOUGH HE SUFFERED SO MUCH GROWING UP IN A LONELY ENVIRONMENT...
SURELY, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A TIME WHEN HE WAS LOVED UNCONDITIONALLY BY BOTH OF HIS PARENTS.
A TIME WITHOUT CLOUDS...
THE FACT THAT HE'S SO KIND TO OTHERS IS PROOF OF THAT.
HIS FAMILY MUST HAVE RAISED HIM HAPPILY AT SOME POINT.
THINKING ABOUT IT MADE ME INCREDIBLY SAD.
I'M CERTAIN THAT THE FAMILY OF THREE WOULD STILL BE LIVING TOGETHER WITH SMILES ON THEIR FACES.
IF THE MOTHER HADN'T GONE DOWN THE WRONG PATH...


...
...WE SHOULD GO HOME...


BUT WHEN I CONSIDER ALL THE HARDSHIP AND SORROW HE HAS GONE THROUGH...
IT WAS FATE THAT ALLOWED JUN-KUN TO BECOME A PART OF MY FAMILY.
AN ALTERNATE TIMELINE IN WHICH WE NEVER MET, IN WHICH THAT FAMILY OF THREE COULD LIVE HAPPILY TOGETHER... WOULD HAVE NATURALLY BEEN PREFERABLE.

TO OUR HOUSE, WHERE AI-SAN AND JUN-KUN ARE WAITING...
...


PLEASE GO BACK TO YOUR OWN HOUSE.
WHAT?!
DON'T "WHAT?!" ME...